

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:

Shell S. Simpson

Serial No.: 10/052,617

Filed: October 25, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2625

Examiner: Thomas, Ashish

Docket No. 10007679-1

For: **System and Method For Print-To-Mail Notification**

**APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37**

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed January 9, 2007, responding to the Final Office Action mailed October 16, 2006.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

### **I. Real Party in Interest**

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

### **II. Related Appeals and Interferences**

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

### **III. Status of Claims**

Claim 20 has been canceled leaving claims 1-19 and 21-35 remaining. Each of those claims stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1-19 and 21-35 are appealed.

### **IV. Status of Amendments**

This application was originally filed on October 25, 2001, with twenty-five (25) claims. In a Response filed November 29, 2005, Applicant amended claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, canceled claim 20, and added new claims 26-32. In a Response filed May 4, 2006, Applicant amended claims 1-3, 12, 17, 18, 28 and added new claims 33-35.

All of the above-identified amendments have been entered and no other amendments have been made to any of claims 1-19 and 21-35. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of those claims.

## **V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

Applicant's claims describe methods, systems, and devices with which print-to-mail format documents can be generated. As described in Applicant's specification, print-to-mail format documents comprise documents that are printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing. Therefore, no separate envelope is required to mail the print-to-mail format documents. Once the print-to-mail format document has been generated by so printing, folding, and sealing, a notification is generated that identifies that fact. In some embodiments, a print-to-mail device is provided that performs each of the printing, folding, and sealing. In such embodiments, the device can include a print mechanism, a folding mechanism, and a sealing mechanism.

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description ("specification") and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Independent claim 1 describes a method for print-to-mail notification that comprises determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, lines 11-13; Figure 6, item 600. The method of claim 1 further comprises identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, lines

16-19; Figure 6, item 602. The method of claim 1 further comprises generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing. *Applicant's specification*, page 13, lines 8-9; Figure 6, item 604.

Independent claim 12 describes a system for print-to-mail notification that comprises means for determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, lines 11-13; Figure 6, item 600. The system of claim 12 further comprises means for identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, lines 16-19; Figure 6, item 602. The system of claim 12 further comprises means for generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing. *Applicant's specification*, page 13, lines 8-9; Figure 6, item 604.

Independent claim 18 describes a print-to-mail device that comprises a processing device. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 6-11; Figure 3, item 300. The device of claim 18 further comprises hard copy generation hardware. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 15-20; Figure 3, item 304. The device of claim 18 further comprises a folding mechanism. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 15-20; Figure 3, item 304. The device of claim 18 further comprises a sealing mechanism. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 15-20; Figure 3, item 304. The device of claim 18 further comprises memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate notification information pertinent to generating of print-to-mail documents that have

been printed, folded, and sealed by the print-to-mail device as a mailing. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 6-14; page 8, lines 10-17; Figure 3, items 302 and 320.

Independent claim 28 describes a device including a processing device. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 6-11; Figure 3, item 300. The device of claim 28 further comprises a print engine configured to print documents. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 15-20; Figure 3, item 304. The device of claim 28 further comprises a folding mechanism configured to fold the printed documents. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 15-20; Figure 3, item 304. The device of claim 28 further comprises a sealing mechanism configured to seal the folded documents. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 15-20; Figure 3, item 304. The device of claim 28 further comprises memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate a notification that confirms generation of multiple print-to-mail format documents and thereby confirms printing, folding, and sealing of the multiple documents as mailings, wherein the mailings do not require an envelope to be mailed, the notification comprising information as to the intended recipients of the mailings such that the notification comprises a record of recipients who presumably will receive a mailing. *Applicant's specification*, page 6, lines 6-14; page 8, lines 10-17; Figure 3, items 302 and 320.

## **VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The following grounds of rejection are to be reviewed on appeal:

1. Claims 1-7, 12-15, 18, 21, 26-29, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,897) in view of *Gleason* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,091,777).

2. Claims 8-10, 16, 19, 24, 25, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* in view of *Gleason* in view of *Stewart* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,964).

3. Claims 11 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* in view of *Gleason* in view of *Pollard* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,745,590).

4. Claims 33-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* in view of *Gleason*, *Pollard*, and what has been termed "Applicant's admitted prior art."

## **VII. Arguments**

The Appellant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals overturn the final rejections of the claims at least for the reasons discussed below.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has the burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 2143 discusses the requirements of a *prima facie* case for obviousness. That section provides as follows:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure.

In the present case, the prior art at least does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

**A. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 12-15, 18, 21, 26-29, and 32**

**1. Claims 1-7 and 12-15**

Claims 1-7, 12-15, 18, 21, 26-29, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,897) in view of *Gleason* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,091,777). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 12 provide as follows (emphasis added):

1. A method for print-to-mail notification, comprising:  
*determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing;*  
identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document; and  
*generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing.*

12. A system for print-to-mail notification, comprising:  
*means for determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing;*  
means for identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document; and  
*means for generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing.*



**a. The Tammi Disclosure**

The Examiner relies in part on the Tammi reference in rejecting each of claims 1-7 and 12-15. Tammi discloses a mail assembly system wherein non-printable post processing data is embedded within mail statement print data and used to control "post processing" of mailing pieces. *Tammi*, column 3, lines 18-22. As described by Tammi, data records comprising mailing statement print data (which comprise the embedded post processing data) are stored in a data storage means. *Tammi*, column 3, lines 23-32. During operation of Tammi's system, a printer receives a stream of mailing statement print data and sequentially outputs printed sheets. *Tammi*, column 5, lines 23-28. During that process, the embedded post processing data is split off from the stream of statement print data by a "splitter device" and is directed to a "system controller computer." *Tammi*, column 5, lines 28-34.

As the printed sheets are output by the printer, each printed sheet is transferred to a "post processing system" by a "finishing interface". *Tammi*, column 5, lines 34-37. Tammi states that the finishing interface sends signals to the system controller computer: (a) when each printing sheet is transferred to the post processing system by the finishing interface, and (b) when a final printed sheet of each mailing statement clears the finishing interface and enters the post processing system. *Tammi*, column 5, lines 37-49. The system controller computer then uses those signals to match the parity of the post processing data received from the splitter device with the parity of the mailing statement to direct the post processing operations to be carried out by the post processing system for each mailing piece. *Tammi*, column 5, lines 56-62. Tammi further states that the "post

processing” of the printed sheets includes: folding the sheets, inserting them into envelopes, sealing the envelopes, etc. *Tammi*, column 5, lines 16-22.

Significantly, nowhere does Tammi state that signals are provided to the system control computer after post processing is completed. Instead, as is apparent from the above, signals are only provided to the system controller computer prior to performing the post processing so that the system controller computer can control such post processing. Therefore, the signals provided to the system controller computer do not identify that any statements or other documents have been folded and sealed.

**b. Determining and Notifying that a Document has been Printed, Folded and Sealed**

In view of the above description of Tammi’s teachings, Applicant submits that Tammi clearly does not, as is alleged by the Examiner, teach or suggest “determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing” as required by claim 1 or “determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing” as required by claim 12. Tammi instead only teaches determining that printed sheets of mailing statements have “entered” a post processing system. Tammi describes no determination that folding and/or sealing later occurred. As a further point, Tammi does not teach or suggest “generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing” as required by claim 1 or “means for generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format

document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing “ as required by claim 12. Again, Tammi’s system controller computer only receives signals in regard to entry of printed sheets into the post processing system, *not* as to any folding and/or sealing operations.

In the rejection of the final Office Action, the Examiner reiterated his argument that Tammi teaches “determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing” in column 4, lines 27-42 and column 10, lines 4-35. Those portions of the Tammi reference provide as follows:

The matching or correlating means generally comprises means for providing an odd-even numeric assignment to each printed mail statement and means for signaling or informing the computer means of the odd-even numeric assignment for each printed mail statement which exits or clears the printer means. The matching means also preferably comprises means for identifying the last sheet of each mail statement and for informing or signaling the computer means when the last printed sheet of each printed mail statement has exited, cleared, or been outputted from the printer means, and that the next or following printed sheet will be the first printed sheet of a following or subsequent mail statement. The matching means also preferably includes means for verifying the receipt of printed statements by the post processing means.

....

A plurality of sensor or sensing means are preferably employed to monitor the post processing operations carried out by post processing system 70, and are shown generally as sensors 105a-c, positioned in association with communication links 100a-c respectively. The sensors 105a-c utilized with the invention preferably comprise conventional optical and electronic sensing means. For example, the position of each mail

statement within post processing system 70 is generally tracked by encoder sensor means which provide for keeping track of the machine cycle of each device 75-95 within the post processing system 70, and thus the position or location of printed mail statements. The encoder means may comprise shaft encoders (not shown) located on a drive shaft or timing shaft (not shown) of each device 75-95, or an encoder located within the electric motors or other driving means (not shown) which drive the devices 75-79. The sensing means preferably also comprises a plurality of photocells (not shown) which track and monitor the movement and location of each printed mail statement as it moves through the devices 75-95 of post processing system 70. The aforementioned sensing means used in association with post processing of mail materials are standard and are well known to persons of ordinary skill in the art, and thus need not be described further in this disclosure. Note, however, that scanning means for detecting printed machine readable codes on mail statements are not included in the above sensing means, as such scanning means and printed codes are not required with the invention for control of post processing operations. Note also, however, that scanning means could be used in conjunction with the invention for form verification or other applications unrelated to post processing.

*Tammi*, column 4, lines 27-42 and column 10, lines 4-35. As can be appreciated from the above, the paragraph from column 4 only discusses identifying when the last printed sheet has “exited, cleared, or been outputted from the printer” and verifying the “receipt of printed statements by the post processing means”, both of which situations occur before post processing is performed. Regarding the paragraph from column 10, *Tammi* does not provide a teaching of determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing. Instead, *Tammi* only discloses “sensing means” of the post processing system that track the

machine cycles of the system. Nowhere is it stated that any determination of whether a print-to-mail format document was generated is actually made.

In view of the above, it is clear that Tammi does not teach or suggest the action of or means for “determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing” or “generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing” as provided in claims 1 and 12. Given that Gleason does not provide teachings or suggestions that would remedy the shortcomings of the Tammi disclosure, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12, and their dependents, are allowable over the Tammi/Gleason combination.

**c. “Print-to-Mail Format” Documents**

Tammi also fails to teach a “print-to-mail format document” that has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing or generating notification information that identifies that the “print-to-mail format document” has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing. Column 10, lines 9-15 of the Tammi reference, which are relied upon by the Examiner, only state that the position or location of a “printed mail statement” is determined. Applicant notes that a “printed mail statement,” as used in the Tammi reference, simply describes a printed statement that is to be mailed, i.e., a printed bill that can later be placed into an envelope and mailed to a customer. That “statement,” however, is not ever described by Tammi as comprising a “print-to-mail format document” that has been generated by printing, folding, and

sealing. Indeed, Tammi explicitly discloses that the statements are *placed in envelopes*. See *Tammi*, column 5, lines 16-22.

Applicant notes that the Examiner cannot disregard the “print-to-mail format” limitation. As described by Applicant in the specification, such a format pertains to a document that can be mailed *without* the need of an envelope. For example, Applicant states:

The print-to-mail device 204 comprises any device that is capable of print-to-mail functionality, *i.e.*, that is capable of printing documents in a format designed for direct mailing without the need for an envelope. Although the term “print-to-mail device” is used herein, it is to be understood that the disclosure is not limited to any particular type of device that provides this functionality. Accordingly, the term is intended to include any appliance or printing device (*e.g.*, printer, photocopier, facsimile machine, multifunction peripheral (MFP), *etc.*) that either inherently provides this functionality or which provides it when a suitable print-to-mail accessory is used in conjunction therewith. An example of a suitable print-to-mail device is a print-to-mail appliance available under the name Print to Mail™ Accessory from the Hewlett-Packard Company.

*Applicant's specification*, page 5, lines 3-13. Therefore, Applicant's specification *explicitly defines* “print-to-mail format document” as a document that is in a format for “direct mailing without the need for an envelope”. Applicant further noted the fact that the current technology lack the capability to report as to the status of such a print-to-mail format document:

Although the print-to-mail devices work well for their designated purposes, current systems do not provide identification of which print-to-mail format documents have been generated. Accordingly, where the documents are bills that are to be sent to clients, there presently is no way to track which bills have been generated and mailed beyond having a person manually record this information. This can lead to billing problems. For instance, it can be easy for the user to (e.g., business) send extra copies of the same bill to a client, or not send a bill to the client at all. Clearly, both situations are undesirable and can potentially create problems in terms of client relations.

*Applicant's specification*, page 2, lines 1-9. Accordingly, Applicant provides an *explicit definition* as to what a "print-to-mail format document" is that cannot be disregarded. Applicant notes that it is well established in the law that claim terms are to be interpreted in light of the specification. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 34 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(in banc), *aff'd*, 517 U.S. 370, 38 USPQ2d 1461 (1996) ("Claims must be read in view of the specification, of which they are a part"). Given that none of the references contemplate print-to-mail format documents, the rejection fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations.

As for the Examiner's statement in the final Office Action that "the last process performed on the print-to-mail document is sealing," Tammi does not state that such sealing is performed on Tammi's printed mail statement. Again, Tammi states that the statement is folded and merely placed in an envelope that will be mailed. Furthermore, and perhaps more significant, Tammi does not describe creating any notifications after the printed mail statements are placed in envelopes and sealed in them. Instead, as described above, Tammi only states that a finishing interface sends signals to the system

controller computer: (a) when each printing sheet is *transferred to* the post processing system by the finishing interface, and (b) when a final printed sheet of each mailing statement clears the finishing interface and enters the post processing system. *Tammi*, column 5, lines 37-49. Given that Tammi's "post processing" comprises the folding, the placing of the statements in envelopes, and the sealing of the envelopes, it follows that Tammi's notification is not a notification that a "print-to-mail format document" has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing.

## **2. Claims 18, 21, 26-29, and 32**

Independent claims 18 and 28 provide as follows (emphasis added):

18. *A print-to-mail device, comprising:*

*a processing device;*

*hard copy generation hardware;*

*a folding mechanism;*

*a sealing mechanism; and*

*memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate notification information pertinent to generating of print-to-mail documents that have been printed, folded, and sealed by the print-to-mail device as a mailing.*

28. *A device comprising:*

*a processing device;*

*a print engine configured to print documents;*

*a folding mechanism configured to fold the printed documents;*

*a sealing mechanism configured to seal the folded documents; and*

*memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate a notification that confirms generation of multiple print-to-mail format*



*documents and thereby confirms printing, folding, and sealing of the multiple documents as mailings*, the notification comprising information as to the intended recipients of the mailings such that the notification comprises a record of recipients who presumably will receive a mailing; wherein the mailings do not require an envelope to be mailed.

Regarding independent claim 18, Tammi does not, as is argued by the Examiner, teach a "print-to-mail device" comprising "hard copy generation hardware", "a folding mechanism", and "a sealing mechanism". As described above, Tammi only teaches a printer and a *separate* post processing system. Furthermore, Tammi does not teach a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate notification information pertinent to "generating of print-to-mail documents that have been printed, folded, and sealed by the print-to-mail device as a mailing". Again, Tammi's system controller computer only receives signals in regard to entry of printed sheets into the post processing system, not as to any folding and/or sealing operations.

Regarding independent claim 28, Tammi does not, as is argued by the Examiner, teach "a device" comprising "a print engine configured to print documents", "a folding mechanism configured to fold the printed documents", and "a sealing mechanism configured to seal the folded documents". Again, Tammi only teaches a printer and a *separate* post processing system. Furthermore, Tammi does not teach a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate a notification that confirms "generation of multiple print-to-mail format documents and thereby confirms printing, folding, and sealing of the multiple documents as mailings". Again, Tammi's system controller computer only receives signals in regard to entry of printed sheets into the post processing system, not as to any folding and/or sealing operations. Moreover, Tammi does not teach that "the

mailings do not require an envelope to be mailed". To the contrary, as described above, Tammi explicitly states that the printed "sheets" are placed in envelopes in order to mail them. Therefore, Tammi fails to teach "print-to-mail format documents" as defined by Applicant.

Given that Gleason does not provide teachings or suggestions that would remedy the shortcomings of the Tammi disclosure, Applicant submits that independent claims 18 and 28, and their dependents, are allowable over the Tammi/Gleason combination.

**B. Rejection of Claims 8-10, 16, 19, 24, 25, 30, and 31**

Claims 8-10, 16, 19, 24, 25, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* in view of *Gleason* in view of *Stewart* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,964). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As identified above, Tammi and Gleason do not teach several aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Stewart does not remedy the deficiencies of the Tammi and Gleason references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-10, 16, 19, 24, 25, 30, and 31 are allowable over the Tammi/Gleason/Stewart combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 12, 18, and 28 are allowable over Tammi/Gleason.

**C. Rejection of Claims 11 and 17**

Claims 11 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* in view of *Gleason* in view of *Pollard* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,745,590). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As identified above, Tammi and Gleason do not teach several aspects of Applicant's claims. In that Pollard does not remedy the deficiencies of the Tammi, Gleason, and Stewart references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 17 are allowable over the Tammi/Gleason//Pollard combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 12 are allowable over Tammi/Gleason.

**D. Rejection of Claims 33, 34, and 35**

Claims 33, 34, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tammi* in view of *Gleason*, *Pollard*, and what has been termed "Applicant's admitted prior art". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

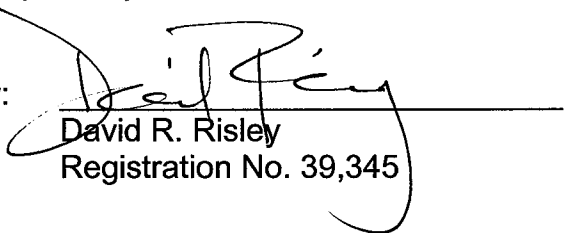
As identified above, Tammi, Gleason, and Pollard do not teach several aspects of Applicant's claims. In that no admissions by Applicant remedy the deficiencies of the Tammi, Gleason, and Pollard references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33, 34, and 35 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 12, and 18 are allowable over Tammi/Gleason/Pollard.

### **VIII. Conclusion**

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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Registration No. 39,345

**Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)**

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1. A method for print-to-mail notification, comprising:  
determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing;  
identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document; and  
generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated comprises detecting that the print-to-mail document has been printed, folded, and sealed.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated comprises receiving a notice from a print-to-mail device component configured to fold and seal the document.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying document attributes comprises identifying at least one of a name of the document, a date the document was printed, and a name of a user.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying document attributes comprises identifying at least one of a customer name, a customer number, a billing period to which the document pertains.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating notification information comprises generating notification information that identifies at least one of the document attributes.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting notification information to a computing device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein transmitting notification information comprises transmitting notification information to a remote computing device via a network.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein transmitting notification information comprises transmitting the information to a database from which data contained within the print-to-mail format document originated.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the database is supported by a network-based database management system.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the notification information within memory of a print-to-mail device that printed, folded, and sealed the print-to-mail format document.

12. A system for print-to-mail notification, comprising:  
means for determining that a print-to-mail format document has been generated by printing, folding, and sealing the document as a mailing;  
means for identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document; and  
means for generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format document has been generated, thereby indicating that the document has been printed, folded, and sealed as a mailing.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for identifying document attributes comprise means for identifying at least one of a name of the document, a date the document was printed, and a name of a user.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for identifying document attributes comprise means for identifying at least one of a customer name, a customer number, a billing period to which the document pertains.

15. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for transmitting notification information to a computing device.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for transmitting notification information comprise means for transmitting notification information to a remote computing device via a network.

17. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for storing the notification information within memory of a print-to-mail device that printed, folded, and sealed the print-to-mail format document.

18. A print-to-mail device, comprising:

a processing device;

hard copy generation hardware;

a folding mechanism;

a sealing mechanism; and

memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate notification information pertinent to generating of print-to-mail documents that have been printed, folded, and sealed by the print-to-mail device as a mailing.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the hard copy generation hardware comprises a print engine.

20. (Canceled)



21. The device of claim 18, wherein the notifier is configured to identify at least one attribute of the print-to-mail format document.

22. The device of claim 18, wherein the memory further comprises a database adapted to store the notification information.

23. The device of claim 18, further comprising a network interface device adapted to transmit notification information to a computing device via a network.

24. The device of claim 18, further comprising an embedded web server that supports a print-to-mail service that is accessible over a network.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein the service comprises a print-to-mail web service that is accessible over the Internet.

26. The device of claim 21, wherein the at least one attribute comprises at least one of a name of the document, a date the document was printed, and a name of a user.

27. The device of claim 21, wherein the at least one attribute comprises at least one of a customer name, a customer number, a billing period to which the document pertains.

28. A device comprising:

a processing device;

a print engine configured to print documents;

a folding mechanism configured to fold the printed documents;

a sealing mechanism configured to seal the folded documents; and

memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate a notification that confirms generation of multiple print-to-mail format documents and thereby confirms printing, folding, and sealing of the multiple documents as mailings, the notification comprising information as to the intended recipients of the mailings such that the notification comprises a record of recipients who presumably will receive a mailing;

wherein the mailings do not require an envelope to be mailed.

29. The device of claim 28, wherein the recipients are customers of a business and the mailings comprise bills that are to be mailed to the customers.

30. The device of claim 28, wherein the notifier is configured to transmit the notification to a database from which data contained within the mailings originated.

31. The device of claim 28, wherein the notifier is configured to transmit the notification to a user via a network.

32. The device of claim 28, wherein the notifier is configured to store the notification in the memory of the device.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein the print-to-mail format document does not require an envelope for purposes of mailing once it has been folded and sealed as a mailing.

34. The system of claim 12, wherein the print-to-mail format document does not require an envelope for purposes of mailing once it has been folded and sealed as a mailing.

35. The device of claim 18, wherein the print-to-mail format document does not require an envelope for purposes of mailing once it has been folded and sealed as a mailing.

**Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)**

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

**Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)**

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.